BETWEEN *the* LINES

The Wells' Newsletter

Condensed, Non-Denominational, Non-Partisan

A report on inner trends and forecasts of significant developments, dedicated to the preservation of the American way of life through the revival and extension of Christian sharing and the prevention of war by the revelation and correction of the causes of war.

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Press Agents Quit AMA

Many who do not approve the Truman health insurance plan are disturbed over the tactics used by the American Medical Association to defeat the plan. For the second time in two years the AMA has been denounced by its own publicity specialists for AMA tactics in fighting the Truman health proposals. In 1947 the firm of Raymond Rich Associates, publicity specialists handling public relations for the AMA, resigned with a public protest, charging that the AMA was using dishonest tactics in connection with medical economics and was putting the selfish interest of doctors above the public welfare. Rich stepped out because the AMA refused to adopt his reform proposals to **"seek the truth on the economic and social aspects of medicine; put the public first; and become adequate to its responsibilities."** Then just recently David Brown, former editor of Liberty magazine, quit his $15,000 a year job as Editorial Director of the AMA publicity campaign to discredit the Truman health measures. Mr. Brown also resigned in protest against the methods used by the AMA in their battle against public health legislation. Thus another link is forged in the chain of evidence that reveals that the hierarchy of the medical profession in America may well be forcing some widespread and possibly undesirable health reform **by their refusal to accept moderate and reasonable measures of progressive change in America's medical service.**

Gasoline Inquiries?

What's become of the congressional investigation of the high price of gasoline? Last summer Republican Sen. Tobey and others led an attempt to investigate the monopoly control of American oil and the artificial price support of American gasoline, which is syphoning off millions of unwarranted profits from the American motoring public. At the time the in-

(continued third col., FOURTH page)

THREE FOLD OPPORTUNITY! A Christmas gift subscription to **Between The Lines** does three important things: saves you time and money by simplifying gift problems; provides a gift that carries with it a whole new experience in deeper understanding; adds another unit to the weight of informed Christian thought which is so much needed in our world today. Make a list of the alert thinking friends you would like to remember at Christmas. They will appreciate this unique news letter with its sharp condensed reporting that penetrates far beyond the usual news channels, its forecasts of important trends garnered from authoritative sources, its unprejudiced, impartial, Christian viewpoint, its revealing cartoons that stab deeply into questions avoided by the usual editorial pages dedicated to protecting the "status quo." What a package for a dollar! Make out that list of Christmas subscriptions *now* — send it in early before the Christmas mail inundates us. Enclose one dollar for each subscription and we will forward a suitable Christmas gift card to the names you send informing them of your gift. Thus you can help yourself, help your friends — and help us make the Christmas gift season a time of great expansion for the unique and desperately needed service **Between The Lines** is rendering.

X-Ray and Forecast

BOMBS, STRATEGY AND ETHICS: We touched lightly in our last issue on the Navy's protest over the U. S. air-power bombing strategy of indiscriminate civilian slaughter — more politely or evasively called "obliteration bombing." We touched it only briefly because we thought certainly that once this significant controversy got to the public ear, the usual news sources would do much with it. But apparently a heavy hand fell on any attempts at further discussion for, with rare exception, little more has been heard of this important matter, which holds such immeasurable moral implications for all of mankind.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC has been given the vague impression that our air attacks on enemy cities were directed at military or industrial targets with "precision bombing" that pin-pointed these military targets to avoid unnecessary civilian casualties. *But that is not the truth.* While many air missions destroyed their targets with great skill through precision bombing, investigations have revealed that reports of our bombing successes were grossly exaggerated and that many of our bombing forays were thwarted by enemy fighter interference and anti-aircraft fire. (BTL, Aug. 15). As a result, our air strategy pivoted increasingly upon obliteration or annihilation bombing, — destroying whole areas of industrial and residential communities. The records of such mass attacks on Hamburg, Berlin, Nuremberg, Yokohama, Tokyo, Nagoya and many other cities, — and finally the atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, — climaxed the trend. Here was no precision bombing or selected targeting; this was systematic, unrestrained, widespread destruction of life and property, irrespective of who were the innocent or the guilty, the armed or the helpless.

Now the development of this obliteration strategy into the atomic age leans heavily upon new long-range land-based super-bombers which would largely by-pass the need of naval support — thus threatening the place of naval power. This explains the all-out attack of the Navy against such strategy. Although further news of this controversy is being smothered, you may be sure that it is still raging behind the scenes.

(continued on NEXT page)

Taft on Atlantic Pact

A strong body of opinion in some Washington circles holds that from an unprejudiced international view the re-arming of Western Europe by the U. S. through the auspices of the Atlantic Pact might well justify Russia's fear of armed encirclement. Influential Sen. Taft in campaigning throughout Ohio is boldly bringing this viewpoint into the open. Taft has explained to large audiences that he voted against the Atlantic Pact because, if Russia sees herself ringed by so-called defensive armies from Norway to Turkey, she may well decide that these armies will lead to an attack on Russia. Sen. Taft, always able and well informed in his presentations (whether we agree with him or not), makes a clear case for the establishment of a Monroe Doctrine for Europe **which would not necessarily require armed enforcement,** — as witnessed by the Monroe Doctrine in this hemisphere. The U. S. could proclaim a Monroe policy for Western Europe informing Russia that in case the Soviet attacks any of these democracies, the U. S. would defend them. This would be far more effective than the Atlantic Pact's definite **armed threat** and, according to the Ohio Senator, would prevent the dangerous moves towards war involved in the arms program of the Atlantic Pact.

UNDER-COVER: Two excited Hungarian aristocrats met in a street cafe in Paris, and one greeted the other; "And what are you doing now?" Answered his co-patriot, "Oh, I have become a spy for our new peoples' government." "What a jolly coincidence — so have I," exclaimed the first. "But tell me," he continued, "What do you think of our new government?" Answered the other, "Well, now of course I think just about the same as you." "How unfortunate, my dear chap. In that case I will have to arrest you."

The Middle Ground

Long overdue land reforms in Italy continue to be a center of crisis in the struggle between communism and democracy. This crisis pivots upon the fact that only 1.5 per cent of the people of Italy own over 36 per cent of the land. Over 19 million acres are held by this tiny group out of a total of 53 million acres. The Roman Catholic Church owns 1,148,137 acres. Communism not only centers among the landless peasants of Italy but also has a strong hold among the impoverished Italian workers in industries that are mostly owned and controlled by many of the same families that own most of the land.

Other reports from Italy, however, refer to the enlightened policies of some Italian industrial leaders who have seen the possibilities of defeating communism by management reforms. In northern Italy where communism has its strongest place among the workers, the large industry at Sesto San Giovanni has instituted widespread reform in labor and wage policy. In this area, formerly a stronghold of communism, these reforms have brought pronounced defeat to the Communist agitators as **Italian workers, benefitting by enlightened leadership, have eagerly cooperated to make the management's progressive experiment successful.**

Ironically enough, many of the Italian reactionary industrialists look forward to the nationalization of industry and to the state taking over their business and paying them in interest-bearing Government bonds, which to these owners offer unusual security in the face of communist threats. This is in some ways a repetition of Mussolini's system of Fascist state control of industry by which the industrial aristocracy profited so greatly.

The safe course away from tyranny on the left or on the right appears to be the **middle ground of enlightened private ownership** as carried out at the great plant at Sesto San Giovanni, which has shown the way to **a new spirit of Christian sharing and productive cooperation between labor and management.**

Norway Defeats Reds: Frequent headlines and editorials in America imply that socialism always leads to communism, which, without defending socialism, we might add is one of the prominent falsehoods being played up in the public mind today. Norway, for instance, has had for some years a Labor Government administered by the Social Democrat party which was recently returned to power with an overwhelming majority for another four-year term,

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X-Ray and Forecast *(continued)*

HERE ARE ANGLES of importance to Christian thinking: **First,** mass civilian bombing in the future means atomic bombing. Where it took us many days and thousands of planes and bombs to wipe out Hamburg, we did it at Hiroshima in a few seconds with one plane and one bomb. **Second,** the top military and political leaders in Washington have tried to keep the American people calm and undisturbed on this problem by **keeping them uninformed.** They have done this mostly by minimizing the effect of the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In nearly all War Dept. releases concerning Hiroshima the figures given are always cut below estimates from other reliable sources. For instance, a typical report was that given by the U. S. Army Surgeon General's office to the International Congress of Military Medicine (AP Oct. 25th) which stated that only 50,000 died in Hiroshima. **Yet the Official U. S. Strategic Bombing Survey, after weeks of study in Japan, reported the dead at between 70,000 and 80,000; and the Supreme Allied Headquarters later added 14,000 known missing — never found or identified — which put the total at nearly 100,000 destroyed.** Norman Cousins, Editor of the Saturday Review of Literature and special correspondent for ABC in Tokyo, announced on last August 28th that, after interviewing responsible Japanese authorities, he found ample evidence that the total killed at Hiroshima was **nearer 200,000 for there were many large contingents** of Japanese civil and military personnel in the center of the bomb blast that had not been included in earlier estimates of the city's population. This new evidence came from **such sources as the Japanese rationing authorities who handled individual ration cards for each person eating in Hiroshima and environs both before and after the bombing.**

In Nagasaki our military officials reported that there were 27,000 killed but recent authoritative news dispatches from Nagasaki put the corrected estimates at 74,000 killed in the harbor city. Remember that the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki with the expectation that not many would be killed because of the surrounding hills near the naval base. But this new evidence shows that the destruction and deadly power of the atom bomb at Nagasaki was as great as that at Hiroshima, where the explosion was over a flat terrain.

So right down the line there has been this effort to deliberately minimize the destruction of life in the two first atomic blasts over civilian areas.

THE THIRD IMPORTANT ANGLE **on this situation is the increasing belief among some of the world's leading military minds and scientific leaders** that these mass civilian slaughters **DO NOT WIN WARS. Gen. J. F. C. Fuller, the famous British military authority-historian, so highly regarded in American military circles, recently poured out scalding words on this theme right into the ears of the American military by calling our mass destruction over Europe "unstrategic American bombing."** He said our slaughter of civilian population was a barbaric waste, leaving Europe in endless torture and turmoil and totally ungovernable, (BTL, Oct. 3). Then, as widely reported, there was the testimony (N. Y. Times, Oct. 12) of the American Admiral Ofstie who, appearing before a committee in Congress, called the use of A-bombs on cities "inhuman and without military advantage." Admiral Radford (N. Y. Times, Oct. 10) in the same hearings pointedly challenged the whole theory of trying to **win wars by what the admirals charged was immoral mass killings of** civilians, while we miss the more important task of destroying the enemy's military potential by far more effective short range attacks at direct military targets. Then there is the devastating testimony and evidence showing that mass civilian bombings do not win wars presented in the book "Fear, War and the Bomb" by Dr. P. M. S. Blackett (Whittlesey House, $3.50). Other scientists, including Einstein, have taken the same position.

CLIMAXING all this evidence is the knowledge that there exists a top rank, highly secret document in Washington called the "Harmon Report" so named for the air force General who headed the investigation of the strategic effectiveness of an atomic air attack. Little of this report has ever been allowed even to reach Congress; its findings are supposed to be a closely guarded secret, but it is generally understood in military circles that this **exhaustive research job, carried out by military men, makes impressive deductions that an atomic attack against enemy cities would not be an effective military strategy.**

PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW: **Since this is the hottest question now being argued out behind guarded doors in our top military planning rooms, we believe it is un-Christian, undemocratic and grossly unfair to so completely shut out the American people from these decisions; to keep them uninformed and unaware; to deceive them by doctored reports of the effects of the civilian bombings for which we are already responsible.** We

(continued on NEXT page)

The Middle Ground

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while the Norwegian Communist party received a staggering setback, according to United Press dispatches, suffering great losses even in the areas where they were thought to be strongest. Never a very large force, the Norwegian Reds have endeavored to gain a foothold in Norway's worker ranks, but all their strenuous efforts to increase their following have ended in failure.

Fair Reporting: American news channels play up Russian efforts to block justice or fair play, — and play down Russian support of just causes. For example, little is being said about the fact that Britain, France, Belgium and Holland have been trying to destroy a special United Nations committee set up to survey and report on conditions in dependent areas under the control of the colonial powers named above. **The imperialistic nations are trying to induce the general council of the UN to kill this committee on colonial administration** on the grounds that it exceeds the authority of the UN to interfere in national affairs. Naturally, lined up against the British and the colonial powers in bitter opposition are India, Egypt, Philippines and other former colonial nations, representing hundreds of millions of the people of color throughout the world whose influence in the shape of things to come will vastly increase. As usual, **Russia throws her weight behind the interests of the colonial peoples** and the U. S. delegation appears to be giving at least silent support to the disintegrating imperial forces.

Chinese Millionaires: The State Department holds an ace card in defense of their position on China and our Government's withdrawal of support for the Chiang-Kai-Shek regime. Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, has indicated that our Government has gathered information about prominent Chinese families associated with Chiang-Kai-Shek **who have built large fortunes out of U. S. aid and the manipulation of American funds sent to China for the support of the Chiang regime.** If necessary to counter the pressure to revive American support to the Chiang regime, these facts will be made public. Many of these huge Chinese fortunes — millions actually drawn out of the American taxpayers' pockets — have been reinvested here through American financial houses.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? A group of DARs recently sent an inquiry to Stalin. They received a prompt reply addressed to "Daughters of the **American Revolution!** Welcome and Greetings!"

Church and State

Bingo: Gambling was a big issue in the Governor's race in New Jersey because of the dangerous domination of New Jersey politics by racketeers and gangsters controlling the gambling interests of the State. The Roman Catholic hierarchy entered the contest by issuing statements supporting the candidate who opposed gambling reform and by circularizing all Catholic dioceses in the state to advocate the defeat of the Reform candidate, Gov. Driscoll, running for re-election. The Catholic spokesmen were indignant because Bingo was included among gambling games that should be abolished, since the Catholic Churches in New Jersey make a big thing of Bingo as a means of raising money for religious purposes. But Gov. Driscoll stated: "As to Bingo, I might say some people characterize it as a harmless pastime. I say it's gambling and has been known to be run at times by gangsters and racketeers." Though Catholic Church leaders insist that gambling is just a social pastime, students of political-sociological science have watched Bingo become the first step towards the gambling activities in an entire community and then a larger area. The spirit of gambling introduced into family circles and among young people through the Bingo parties soon expands to include all forms of games of chance and thus the racketeers quickly get their hands on lucrative gambling tie-ups that soon corrupt politics and breed crime, — as abundant records prove.

Political Freedom? A special conference was called recently by Congressman Lesinski, of the House Committee on Education, to discuss the Barden Bill on Federal aid to education. Dr. J. M. Dawson, prominent Baptist leader and a spokesman for national Protestant groups, was the only Protestant included; all others invited were Roman Catholic congressmen or spokesmen for the Catholic Church. After hearing many attacks on the Barden Bill and explanations of the Catholic viewpoint on Federal aid to education, Dr. Dawson arose to present a statement by Father W. E. McManus, prominent Catholic educator, also present at the conference. The statement Dr. Dawson was about to read revealed the official Roman position on the school question as that of securing Federal aid in general for the parochial schools, but Dr. Dawson was shouted down by the Catholic congressmen who said he was introducing religious bigotry into the conference.

Protestants Too? Not many Protestants realize that in Sweden

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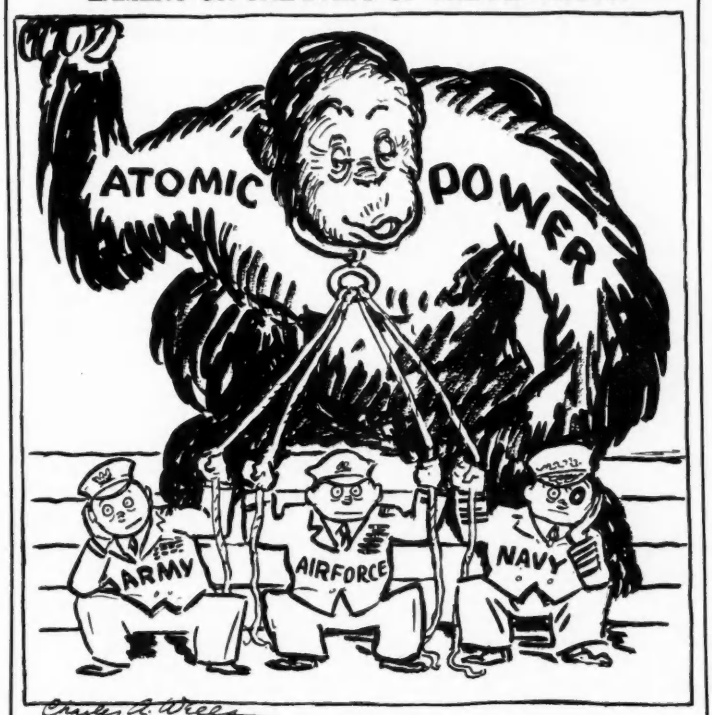
LAMENT ON THE STEPS OF THE PENTAGON



The genteel profession of high brass and braid
Was all blown away when this creature was made.
No longer is war a smart game on the wall
With thumb tacks and ribbons and drinks down the hall.
There's no rear line safety or fine rivalry,
High rank or wide stripes he can't even see.
Won't someone just tell us without so much fuss, —
Do we now have him — or does he now have us?

X-Ray and Forecast *(continued)*

believe that if Christian teaching stands for anything — that is, if America as a "Christian Nation" means anything — this policy should be reversed. The American people should understand the issue, and the moral and spiritual forces of America should have some voice in these decisions — rather than leaving them entirely to men who have already shown themselves inadequate in judgment, as revealed when the truth of Hiroshima and Nagasaki gradually comes into full light. Remember, the U. S. Strategic Bombing Survey — after its study of our bombing of Japan, atomic and otherwise, — flatly stated that Japan was already knocked out of the war, the capacity to fight destroyed and that atom bomb slaughter of Hiroshima and Nagasaki **were not necessary** to win or end the war.

We do not present this as a pacifist argument. **Between The Lines does not nor never has** taken the pacifist position, for we have held our task to be that of *reporting:* bringing needed information to sincere Christian laymen of *all* positions. Some Christian people are pacifists; thousands of just as sincere Christians are not. But, as stated in our masthead, we seek "the prevention of war by the revelation and correction of the causes of war." If that position cannot be held today without fear or intimidation, then what is there left to our democracy — or our Christianity?

THE FEAR OF MASS CIVILIAN BOMBING is one of the **chief reasons that no international agreement can be secured for atomic control.** When our president recently (just before we learned Russia had the bomb) threatened the war-sick world that if folks didn't behave we wouldn't hesitate to use the atom bomb again, that statement made America sound like a small-town bully. We say this sadly because we regard our president with all the esteem his high office merits. But if the U. S. should come out as flatly on a military policy against the bombing of civilian populations — not only on moral grounds **but also because the mass slaughter of the defenseless and helpless does not win wars,** we would be taking a long and exceedingly important step towards reducing tensions and the deadly pull that seems to keep drawing the world towards the vortex of world-wide destruction.

(continued on NEXT page)

Church and State

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Protestant Lutheranism has exercised a dominant control over religious and civic affairs of Sweden. The Baptists, Methodists and others have been in many ways second class citizens in this area where the Lutheran church is the established religion and receives many privileges as a result of its position. But widespread reforms are now proposed to end the spiritual domination of one sect of Protestantism over others. A man will no longer have to be a Lutheran to hold a place in the cabinet and henceforth couples can be married by free church clergymen, knowing that the ritual will have full legal standing. The Lutheran clergy will, however, continue to be supported by State funds, while those in the free evangelical faiths will have to be supported by the gifts of the people. It is believed also that dominant position over education, which has been held by the State church, will be more widely interpreted to include some participation by other faiths. The Roman Catholics who have long been restrained in Sweden will be given the right to establish convents, monastaries, etc.

LONG SERMON: The Communists in China are trying to enforce some rigid rules about work and business activities which sometimes confront the missionaries with difficult decisions. A Communist officer recently insisted to a missionary that every one, even the missionaries, must work eight hours a day. The missionary replied, "Splendid! As a preacher I would love to give full time to my task." "Well, then," commanded the Communist, "you must preach every day for eight hours."

The Human Factor

An Echo: Financial writers in New York report a new cult among top-flight business management centered around a book by Dr. Pierre Dos Utt, who offers "a plan for new economic world order" by scientific human breeding. One N. Y. financial writer states that the book reached his desk via the president of an important corporation. The teachings of Dr. Utt, point to the fact that man has produced superior animals out of lower breeds by scientific breeding. We are reaching an age, according to Dr. Utt, when this should happen in human relations if we are to maintain adequate leadership of our increasingly complex industrial society. This means that supermen must be developed who can run the world from the lofty battlements of their own kind. But, it might be asked, suppose the super-men turned out to be warlike by nature or exceedingly lust-

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The Human Factor

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ful for power. This sounds like Hitler's racialism in a new form.

Hopeful Words: To balance this very limited (we hope) trend in certain top business circles, are the statements by the National Association of Manufacturers' president, Wallace F. Bennett. Mr. Bennett has been telling important industrial groups that American workmen are dissatisfied with our industrial system because management has failed to give them the spiritual satisfaction they need in their work. "Industrialists have done **an excellent job of managing the physical factories, but they have neglected the job of managing the spiritual factories which also exist. In the physical plant men work to earn their living, but in the same time in the spiritual plant they work to make a life."** Mr. Bennett urged that management help the worker in his quest "to be himself; to grow; to achieve and to be recognized." "The American people," he added with amazing frankness for an N. A. M. executive, "have indicated in the past few years that they are beginning to lose faith in the system that has made America great." If N. A. M. begins to follow this policy line, the spiritual awakening that must come to our industrial life to save our free enterprise will soon be on its way. We are afraid, however, and experience bears out the fear, that many of America's top industrialists do not appreciate such words uttered by one of their own leading spokesmen. For years Christian business leaders like Eric Johnston, former head of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, have made many such statements, but they have usually been tossed aside like falling leaves by the hatchet-faced men who slip out of their offices in Wall Street and into their waiting limousines about three o'clock each day.

Friendship Factor: H. W. Steinkraus, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, like other awakened business leaders is urging a new recognition, by industrial management, of the human and spiritual factor in employer-labor relations. Mr. Steinkraus recalled an experience in the midst of a difficult negotiation for Mine and Smelter Workers' Union. "Near midnight we arranged to have sandwiches and coffee sent up to the employers. When the food arrived we thought of the union men in the room below with the cafeteria closed and nothing to eat since noon, so we divided what we had and sent it down. I shall never forget how surprised they were. From that moment the whole situation seemed to thaw. We found clauses we could agree on. There was no strike."

X-Ray and Forecast *(continued)*

OTHER MAJOR TRENDS that change the military outlook: Atomic warfare is forcing painful changes in the entire Army-Navy psychology and technique — just as the machine gun forced trench warfare and line formations out, and the plane made a relic of the battleship. Also, some of the close ties between top military figures and big business are being broken up by atomic problems. Big industrial groups are still to be the main recipient of fat military contracts, yet industrial leaders are finding they can't dominate as in the past. U. S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, Western Electric and General Electric have long been powerful friends of the Navy as revealed in congressional investigations and as recently pointed out by Drew Pearson. The big auto manufacturers (tanks), textile manufacturers (uniforms), and chemical and plane manufacturers have stood close to the Army. But today atomic energy — **so far NOT a private profit enterprise** — has thrown a whole new element of control into the military picture. This change is disturbing to many of the top brass and braid who have felt rather cozy in their careers with the big bosses of industry so closely associated with them to pull political wires, to plug for military appropriations — to say nothing of those swell jobs upon retirement. But the tough civilian Atomic Energy Commission, with the public spirited David Lilienthal the head, can't be pushed around or cozied up to. The very nature of atomic energy has forced the Commission to forsake all tradition and push ahead into the most highly imaginative fields ever known to human endeavor. Because of this, the onslaught against David Lilienthal was started. Lilienthal's records of public power administration does not set well with the large industrial interests who want to see the atomic power development pulled back into management for private profit, and the military also resent civilian control of the atom which formerly was a military monopoly. But the attacks on the Commission spearheaded by the drive against Lilienthal only succeeded in staging one of the biggest farces in recent Washington history. Incidentally, perhaps you noticed how many of the press and radio services, subservient to large business and industrial pressures, whooped things up when the charges were first leveled against Lilienthal and the Commission, then when the investigation frittered out, played down the news as if it never happened! So the thrust of atomic power into military strategy is making a wreck of other things besides the old tight ranks of battleship admirals.

THE NEXT GREAT REVOLUTION that will hit the military world will come **when atom bombs will be as easy and cheap to make as a small motor truck.** Like every problem of industrial production, experience and experiment continues to simplify methods. The Emergency Committee of the Federated Nuclear Scientists have issued bulletins warning that the day of plentiful and cheap atom bombs is not far away. On Sept. 25, this Committee issued a statement saying that Russia will have caught up with us in atomic production in two years. This group of nuclear research men warned continuously since the war that Russia would soon have the A-bomb, — while the political and military leaders kept talking loudly and proudly of our monopoly of atomic secrets — *something we never possessed.* It is only a matter of a few years when atom bombs will be easily accessible — a day that will certainly come before the world is ready for it. Then any little hot-headed dictator can corner a hundred fast planes and a good supply of atom bombs, — and issue a deadly ultimatum to the biggest nation on earth.

But when that time comes, the hopeful prospect is that America and Russia will both be too worried about some of their obstreperous neighbors to maintain the cold war across the world. A Tito, thumbing his nose at Moscow, would then be more than a propaganda threat. Although that day draws near, world political and military leadership is entirely unprepared for it. Perhaps that preparation cannot even begin until the world of religion is awakened to lead the way.

THOUGHT AND ACTION: Keep this in mind as you read the news about the eleven convicted Communists: What the American courts must define is the difference between holding a Communist belief and working to overthrow the Government by violence as an implementation of that belief. The whole foundation of American freedom rests on the right to think and believe whatever one feels is truth. The super-heated patriots who want to make it a crime to think "Communist" thoughts are more dangerous to the American way of life than the Communists. It is a crime to plot to overthrow our government by violence. It happens that many Communists belong to an organizational structure that is guilty of that crime and should be punished accordingly. But to shackle such criminals should not be used as a precedent to shackle the mind of any man. After all the first century Christians taught and practiced communal living while they denounced and denied the powers of violence — even unto death.

Gasoline Inquiries?

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vestigation was opened independent oil officials declared before the congressional group that **the price of gasoline was being maintained because "the market had been rigged through the curtailment of crude oil production."** One witness stated that "this artificial price was being supported by **a widespread program of curtailment of production."** The N. Y. Times carried, on June 29th, the story of these charges and we have been watching for a follow-up, but, as is often the case when some courageous congressmen take their political careers in their hands and start such investigations, in a few weeks the whole thing becomes muffled in silence. The charges of monopoly control of gasoline prices were brought to light at the time of these first hearings by the admission of oil officials that the gasoline prices had been kept uniform throughout the country among the various corporations. It was brought out that **there was no competition among the oil companies in this matter,** the big monopoly leaders maintaining the price scale so tightly that independent operators did not dare break the price reins that held the product at a high profit level throughout the country. Independent oil operators have frequently charged that the great monopoly corporations have not only curtailed production in this country to keep prices high, but in doing so have strangled the operations of the independents by draining off oil well supply materials for the use of the big corporations' foreign developments. We are still wondering what has become of this investigation.

What, No Reds!

Europe's tiny state of Liechstenstein found its exchequer low and decided to try for some Marshall Plan dollars. Their finance minister called on European Marshall Plan chief Harriman, who asked "How strong are the Communists in your country?" The finance minister smiled proudly, "We don't have a single Communist in our whole country." Queried Mr. Harriman, "Not one? Well, that's a shame, — because you see we can't help you unless you are threatened with communism." The finance minister had a bright idea and phoned the French foreign minister and said, "M. Schuman, you have lots of Communists in France making trouble — 5 million, I hear." Schuman admitted this, then the Liechstenstein minister continued, "How about loaning me a few thousand so we can qualify for Marshall Plan dollars?" Replied Schuman, "Do you think I'm crazy! They're worth $50,000 a piece to us!"